

References

Luke 15:8–10; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 192–197



Memory Verse

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10, NIV).

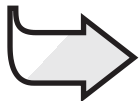


Objectives

The children will:
Know that Jesus cares if we are lost from Him.

Feel valuable to Jesus.

Respond by accepting Christ's love and sharing it with others.



The Message

Jesus looks for me, because I am precious to Him.

Too Precious to Lose!

Monthly Theme

God's love finds me wherever I am.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After the story of the lost sheep, Jesus tells another story about a woman who has ten silver coins and loses one in her own home. She lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches diligently until she finds it. When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together to rejoice with her.

This is a lesson about grace.

The human soul is as silver, of intrinsic worth and value, which is stamped with God's image. The lost silver coin represents those nearby who are lost in the dirt of sin (in your home, your church, etc.). God has lit the candle of the gospel to find them, and there is great rejoicing in heaven when one of these indifferent ones is found.

Teacher Enrichment

“As the former parable [the lost sheep] was apparently addressed to men in the audience, this was perhaps directed particularly to the women who listened. Jesus often used illustrations that appealed to women in particular (see Matt. 13:33; Luke 17:35)” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 816).

“The two parables represent different classes. The lost sheep knows that it is lost. . . . It represents those who realize that they are separated from God and who are in a cloud of perplexity, in humiliation, and sorely tempted. The lost coin represents those who are lost . . . but who have no sense of their condition. They are estranged from God, . . . but they are unconscious and unconcerned. In this parable Christ teaches that even those who are indifferent to the claims of God are the objects of His pitying love” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 193, 194).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Find What's Missing</i> B. <i>Coin Search</i>	tray, ten items covered with a cloth, Bibles ten "silver coins" made from cardboard circles covered with aluminum foil (approx. 2 inches [5 cm] in diameter), Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbooks Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy, The SDA Hymnal</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	table, box, ten "silver coins" (see Readiness B), several containers, three chairs, candle, candlestick, matches, broom, rug or towel, Bible-times costumes, white board or chalkboard, dry erase marker or chalk "silver coins" (see Readiness B), memory verse on sheet of paper, scissors, tape, memory verse written for all to see Bibles, chalkboard or white board, chalk or markers
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Special Coins</i>	Bible, large coin, large paper circles, pencils, colored markers
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Worth a Lot!</i>	photocopy of paper money (see p. 142) for each child, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, real money of highest denomination possible

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Then have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- tray
- ten items covered with a cloth
- Bibles

A. Find What's Missing

Put ten items on a tray and cover it with a cloth. Remove the cloth and give the children one minute to look at the ten items. Have them close their eyes. Remove one item from the tray. Ask the children to open their eyes.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is missing?** (Wait for responses.) **How do you know?** (I remember what was on the tray.) **What do you do when something you need or want is missing? Our Bible story today is about finding something that was missing and is lost. Let's find and read Luke 19:10.** Read aloud. **Just as we look for things that are lost, so Jesus looks for us when we are lost. Another way to say that might be:**



JESUS LOOKS FOR ME, BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- ten "silver coins" made from cardboard circles covered with aluminum foil (approx. 2 inches [5 cm] in diameter)
- Bibles

B. Coin Search

In advance, prepare these coins, which will also be used for Experiencing the Story and the Memory Verse activity. See those sections for instructions.

Then hide nine coins around the Sabbath School room, so the children can find them without too much difficulty. Tape coin number ten to the bottom of your own chair, so it will be difficult to find. After the children find the coins, save them for Experiencing the Story and the Memory Verse activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **How many of you didn't give up looking for coin number ten?** (Wait for a show of hands.) **Did you ever feel like giving up?** (Wait for responses.) **Have you ever lost something, looked for it, and given up finding it?** (yes; no) **Let's find and read our memory verse, Luke 19:10.** Read aloud. **Today's Bible lesson is about someone who lost something and did not give up until she found it. When we wander away from Jesus, He comes looking for us. He never gives up! And that makes me think of our message for today:**



JESUS LOOKS FOR ME, BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO HIM.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 26)

"God Knows Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 47)

"Amazing Grace" (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 108)

"Wide, Wide as the Ocean" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 32)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Our offering goes to help the lost people in our world to learn about Jesus, their Saviour.**

You Need:

- container used last week



Prayer

Along with other prayer requests, continue to pray for specific people the children know who are far from Jesus and need to be found.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- table
- box
- ten “silver” coins (see Readiness B)
- several containers
- three chairs
- candle
- candlestick
- matches
- broom
- rug or towel
- Bible-times costumes for several girls
- white board or chalkboard
- dry erase marker or chalk

Experiencing the Story

Characters: woman and her friends

Props: table, box with nine silver coins (same as used in Readiness B; can be made with cardboard circles covered with aluminum foil), several containers, three chairs, candle, candlestick, matches, broom, rug (can use a large towel), one silver coin (number ten) under the rug

Have the “woman and her friends” pantomime the parable, as indicated, while you read the story.

Read or tell the story.

A happy group of children skipped along beside their mothers. The women were glad to take a break from their daily work of cooking, cleaning, and scrubbing dirty clothes. The children thought it was a treat to go on a picnic for the day! Finally they arrived at the place where Jesus was speaking. They sat down and made themselves comfortable on the grass.

The first thing they heard was a story about a shepherd losing one of his sheep, and how happy the shepherd was when he found it. Then Jesus began to tell a story that the little group of mothers leaned forward to hear.

He told them, “There was once a woman who had ten very special silver coins. They were her dowry.” *[Woman enters the room, and picks up the box from the table. She opens it and shows the (nine) coins inside.]*

The women smiled. They knew how special those coins were. A dowry *[write*

dowry *where all can see]* was a present that the husband gave to his bride’s family before they were married. Then the money was given to the bride on her wedding day. Many times she made a headband out of it. Other people would see it and know that her husband loved her very much.

Jesus continued His story. “One day the woman lost one of her silver coins.” *[The woman takes out the coins and counts them. She looks confused, and counts the coins again. She looks upset and worried.]*

The listening mothers thought about the poor woman in the story. That was about the most awful thing that could happen to a wife! What would her husband say? What would her neighbors and friends say?

“The woman lit a lamp and began to sweep her house,” Jesus said. “She looked everywhere for her one lost coin.” *[The woman begins to search for the coin. She lights a candle and places it in a candlestick. (Closely supervise this.) Then she sweeps the floor with a broom.]* Jesus watched the faces of the people listening to His story. He knew what their homes were like. Because they had small windows or no windows at all, it was dark inside, even in the daytime. Straw was on the dirt floor. It would be hard to find a coin.

Jesus continued. “She kept searching. She just would not give up! On the table, under the table, behind the heavy water pot—she looked and looked. *[The woman looks into every container on the table and under the table.]* Suddenly she looked under the rug! *[She kneels down and finds it under the rug.]* ‘I’ve found it!’ she cried, *[Woman looks happy.]* quickly picking up the smooth coin. Dashing outside she ran to her neighbors and friends. ‘Come and celebrate with me! *[Woman runs to the door and calls her friends.]* I lost one of my coins and now

I've found it!" [The friends enter the room. They look puzzled at the woman. The woman shows them the coins, points to the box and holds up nine fingers, lifts up the rug, and holds up coin number ten. Everyone rejoices.]

Many in the crowd laughed with relief. Jesus laughed with them. With a twinkle in His eye He added, "That's the kind of celebration angels have when God finds and rescues a lost person."

Debriefing

Ask: **When were these coins given to the woman?** (When she got married.) **What word is used to describe them?** (dowry) **What did the woman do when she discovered the coin was lost?** (She lit a candle and began to sweep.) **What did she do when she found her coin?** (She invited her neighbors to celebrate with her.)

Did the coin know that it was lost? (No.) **Who cared that it was lost?** (the woman) **What does God do when we become lost or stray away from Him?** (He cares and looks for us, calls us back to Him.)

What did you learn from this lesson? (Everyone is valuable to God, even those who don't care about Him or don't know that they are lost.) **Let's remember our message . . .**



**JESUS LOOKS FOR ME,
BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO
HIM.**

Memory Verse

In advance, print the words or word clusters (see box) separately on a sheet of paper. Cut out each word or cluster. Have a helper attach each one to the back of one of the ten "silver coins."

You Need:

- "silver coins" (see Readiness B)
- memory verse on sheet of paper
- scissors
- tape
- memory verse written for all to see

For the (coin 1); Son (coin 2); of man (coin 3); came (coin 4); to seek (coin 5) and to save (coin 6) what (coin 7) was lost (coin 8). Luke (coin 9) 19:10 (coin 10).

Have the children close their eyes while you turn the coins over, mix them up, and set them in a row. Have one child at a time choose a coin, turn it over, and place it where it should go. (They may refer to the memory verse you have written where all may see.) Repeat the activity until the children are familiar with the verse. (For a large Sabbath School, duplicate this activity for every five to ten students.)

Bible Study

In advance, write the following for all to see (without the answers):

A (woman) has (ten) silver (coins) and loses one. She lights a (lamp), sweeps the (house), and searches (carefully) until she (finds) it. And when she finds it, she (calls) her (friends) and (neighbors) together and says, "(Rejoice) with me; I have found my (lost coin). In the same way, I tell you, there is (rejoicing) in the presence of the (angels) of God over one (sinner) who repents."

Have the children open their Bibles to Luke 15. Choose volunteers to read verses 8-10. Then ask for volunteers to tell you what words to put in the blanks.

Debriefing

Ask: **Did the coin have to do anything to be found?** (no) **How does God feel about those who are lost? What does He do about it? Why? How does Jesus look for lost people?** (He sends us to tell others about Him, Christian radio, TV programs, the Holy Spirit, etc.) Remember . . .



**JESUS LOOKS FOR ME,
BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO
HIM.**

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or markers

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bible
- large coin
- large paper circles
- pencils
- colored markers

Special Coins

Have the children sit in a circle. Pass a large coin around and tell the children to look at the profile on the “heads” side.

Then give each child a pencil, markers, and a large paper circle. Have each draw a profile of themselves on one side of their paper coin, and write their names above it.

When they are finished, they pass their coins to the left. Each child will write something positive that describes the person whose profile and name is on the front of the coin. For example: “You are always helpful.” (Give young children help to write one word, such as “helpful.”) The children are to keep passing the coins around the circle until each child receives their own again.

Then collect the coins and put them

in a pile. Have the children take turns finding their coins.

(Adapted from *The Children’s Worker’s Encyclopedia of Bible-Teaching Ideas: New Testament* [Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, Inc., 1997], p. 71.)

Debriefing

Say: **You were able to find your coin because it was one of a kind, like you. That is how God made you. You are special to God just as the coin was special to the woman in today’s story.**

Ask: **How did the writing on the back of your coin make you feel?** (special; happy) **You are special to us too. If you ever feel lost and discouraged, what will you remember? Let’s answer with our message:**



**JESUS LOOKS FOR ME,
BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO
HIM.**

Sharing the Lesson

Worth a Lot!

Show the children various coins and paper money. Ask them if they are worth less or more than this.

Have them think of someone else to whom they can tell today's money story. Distribute the photocopies of paper money (see page 142). Ask them to draw a picture of that person on the front of the paper "money," and write the person's name on the back. They then cut out the "money" and take it to the person.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

When do you plan to give your "money gift" to the special person

you have chosen? (Wait for responses.)

What will you say to them?

How much are you worth to Jesus? How does it feel to be worth a lot? (very good; happy; peaceful) **Let's say our message again:**



**JESUS LOOKS FOR ME,
BECAUSE I AM PRECIOUS TO
HIM.**

Closing

Thank Jesus for doing whatever it takes to find and save us. Pray for courage to share this good news with someone this week.

Remind the children to use their Bible Study Guides every day and to do the daily activities.

You Need:

- photocopy of paper money (p. 142) for each child
- pencils, crayons, markers
- scissors
- real money of highest denomination possible

Too Precious to Lose!

References

Luke 15:8–10;
*Christ's Object
 Lessons*,
 pp. 192–197

Memory Verse

“For the Son of
 Man came to seek
 and to save what
 was lost” (Luke
 19:10, NIV).

The Message

Jesus looks for me,
 because I am pre-
 cious to Him.

It's happened to me. It's happened to my next-door neighbor! It may even have happened to you! Can you remember a time when you couldn't find something important to you? In our story today Jesus tells about a woman who lost something important. Perhaps it happened like this . . .

The morning sun warmed the backs of the busy women. Laughter rippled through the group as they shared stories. Laundry day meant hard work, but happy visiting. As the women scrubbed and rinsed they had something new to talk about today. “Have you heard the stories Jesus tells?” asked one.

“They are so interesting,” said another. “He understands how we live.” Back and forth they talked about seeing the sick people healed, and about the kind things Jesus said.

“I hope to take the children to listen to Him tomorrow,” smiled a young mother.

“Oh, I'd love to go along,” agreed another. Soon several of the women were making plans for the next day.

Happy children skipped along beside their mothers the next morning. Excitement was in the air. Soon all the people sat down, and Jesus began to speak. He told them a story about a shepherd losing one

of his sheep, and how happy the shepherd felt when he found it.

Then Jesus began to tell a story that the little group

of laundry ladies leaned forward to hear.

“There was once a woman who had ten very special silver coins. They were her dowry.”

The women smiled. They knew how special those coins were. A dowry was a present that the husband gave to his bride's family before they were married. Then the money was given to the bride on her wedding day. Many times she made a headband out of it. Other people would see it and know that her husband loved her very much. It was a very special treasure.

Jesus continued His story. “One day the woman lost one of her silver coins.”

Oh no! The women thought about the poor woman in the story. That was about the most awful thing that could happen to a wife! What would her husband say? What would her neighbors and friends say?

“The lady lit a lamp and began to sweep her house,” Jesus went on. “She looked everywhere for her lost coin.” Jesus watched the faces of the people listening to His story. He knew what their homes were like. Because they had small windows or no windows at all, it was dark inside, even in the daytime. There was straw on part of the dirt floor. It would be hard to find a coin.

“She kept searching. She just would not give up! On the table, under the table, behind the heavy water pot—she looked and looked! She searched the dirt floor. Suddenly she saw it! ‘I've found it!’ she cried, quickly picking up the smooth coin. Dashing outside she ran to her neighbors and friends. ‘Come and celebrate with me! I lost one of my coins, and now I've found it!’”

Many in the crowd laughed with relief. Jesus laughed with them. With a twinkle in His eye He added, “That's the kind of celebration angels have when God finds and rescues a lost person.”



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Go outside and hide a coin. Then ask your family to find it. Say “hot” if they are near it and “cold” if they are far away. After they find it, sit down together and read today’s Bible story.
- Look at the coin. Is it dirty? When the woman found her coin, it was probably dirty, but it had not lost its value. That is how God feels about people. They may have sinned, but they are still valuable to God.
- Read and discuss Luke 19:10 together. Then thank Jesus for coming to save you.

Sunday

- Flip a coin with family members who can read. Those who get “heads” are to read Luke 15:8 together. The woman had ten coins. She lost one. How many are left?
- Make one cardboard coin for each word of your memory verse and one for the Bible text. Write one word on each coin. Arrange the coins in order and say the verse.

Monday

- Read Luke 15:8, 9 for family worship. Then set a timer for five minutes. How many things can you find that were mentioned in our Bible story?
- Look in a dictionary to learn more about the word *dowry*.
- Arrange your memory verse coins and say the verse together.
- Sing “Amazing Grace” (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 108). Then thank Jesus for His grace.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Luke 15:10 for family worship. Think of someone you know who recently accepted Jesus. Have an “angel” party for family worship. Decide how to celebrate. Read Luke 15:10 again. Then pray for that

person and thank Jesus for saving him or her.

- Sing “Bless His Holy Name” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 9). Then arrange your memory verse coins from memory.

Wednesday

- Read or recite John 3:16 for family worship. Ask your family: How is this verse connected with this week’s lesson?
- Did you give the money gift you made in Sabbath School to someone? (Make some paper money. Draw a friend’s picture on the front. Write on the back: “You are worth a lot to God, much more than all the money in the world!” Then tell them the Bible story.)
- Ask Jesus to bless the person you gave your money gift to.

Thursday

- Read and discuss 1 John 3:16 with your family. How is this verse like John 3:16? How special are you to God? How is each family member special to Him? To you?
- Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.
- Make a small gift for each member of your family to show that they are special to you. It could be a bookmark or a picture, or something else. Save them for Friday evening worship.

Friday

- Act out this week’s Bible story with your family. Then say your memory verse together.
- Say to your family, “I made a gift for each of you because you are very special to me—like the coin was special to the woman. Then talk about what God did for each one that shows they are special to Him.
- Read and discuss together Ephesians 1:7, 8.
- Sing “God Is So Good” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13) before prayer. Thank God for your family.